

support this bill, thought I would prefer that the authorization and funding were increased to \$12 million to make it consistent with the legislation our Committee passed last year. This program has been very successful in helping women start and grow businesses and it deserves generous funding.

Women-owned businesses are increasing in number, range, diversity and earning power. They constitute more than one-third of the 20 million small businesses in the United States, and account for some \$3 trillion in annual revenues to the economy. Addressing the special needs of women-owned businesses serves not only entrepreneurs, but also the economic strength of this nation as a whole.

This bill further ensures that new and potential women business owners, who otherwise might be excluded from the economic mainstream of society, are afforded every opportunity to succeed through the Small Business Administration's Women's Business Centers program.

Centers are faced with the challenging task of teaching business basics and providing practical support and realistic encouragement. Massachusetts has an excellent example of a Women's Business Center—the Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE) in Boston. Andrea Silbert is a tireless executive director who effectively raises money, forges partnerships and designs thorough training and mentoring programs to help women entrepreneurs. When CWE trains an entrepreneur, she learns how to approach a lender for a loan, learns how to manage her business, and gains an understanding of the hows and whys of marketing. Nationwide, women should have access to this type of quality, comprehensive training.

It is clear that the centers are having a positive social and economic impact on the lives of many women and the communities which they serve. New clients continue to be racially and ethnically diverse: Some 40 percent are members of minority groups. About half are married, and half are single, widowed, divorced, or separated.

While this bill addresses some important issues, I am concerned about the unresolved problem of sustainability. How can established, effective centers that are at the end of the five-year Federal funding cycle continue to provide the same quality of services without the Federal contribution? It's their bread and butter, and it's indispensable leverage that helps centers raise the obligatory matching funding.

Agnes Noonan, executive director of the Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST corp.) in New Mexico recently reinforced this point when she testified before the Senate Committee on Small Business. With an 89 percent growth in the number of women-owned businesses over the last decade and a 161 percent increase in revenues, it is sound economic policy for the Federal government to support

programs which facilitate the training and development of women business owners. It follows that we would be wise to safeguard the investment that has been made to date in the infrastructure of women's business centers around the country.

I believe we should find a fair way to let these centers recompute for the base funding. And we should do it this calendar year, before it's too late and the centers have lost their Federal funding and are out of business. I will be introducing a bill to allow Women's Business Centers to recompute for Federal funding in mid-April, when we return from the Easter recess. I hope that my colleagues with strong Women's Business Centers in their states will join me in sponsoring recompetition legislation.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their continuing efforts to expand policies that allow women entrepreneurs to grow and thrive.

Mr. CRAPO. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 774) was considered read a third time and passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 26, H.J. RES. 27, H.J. RES 28

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed en bloc to the consideration of the following resolutions which are at the desk: H.J. Res. 26, H.J. Res. 27, and H.J. Res. 28. I further ask consent that the Senate proceed to their consideration en bloc, and I further ask consent that the joint resolutions be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the above occur en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REAPPOINTMENT OF BARBER B. CONABLE, JR. TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 26) providing for the reappointment of Barber B. Conable, Jr. as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 26) was considered read the third time and passed.

REAPPOINTMENT OF DR. HANNA H. GRAY TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) providing for the reappointment of Dr. Hanna H. Gray as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) was considered read the third time and passed.

REAPPOINTMENT OF WESLEY S. WILLIAMS, JR. TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 28) providing for the reappointment of Wesley S. Williams, Jr. as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 28) was considered read the third time and passed.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the report to accompany S. 92 be star printed with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO ARE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution submitted earlier today by Senator LOTT regarding support of troops engaged in military operations in Yugoslavia be considered agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that all Senators be added as cosponsors of the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 74) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas the President has authorized United States participation in NATO military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Whereas up to 22,000 members of the Armed Forces are presently involved in operations in and around the Balkans region with the active participation of NATO and other coalition forces; and

Whereas the Senate and the American people have the greatest pride in the members of the Armed Forces and strongly support them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the members of the United States Armed Forces who are engaged in military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and recognizes their professionalism, dedication, patriotism, and courage.